

# FLOAT PLANE OPERATIONS

- Float plane operators are reminded that when the plane is on the water it is considered a vessel and is subject to the International Navigation Regulations (72 COLREGS). As the operator of a float plane, you are reminded that under the 72 COLREGS, float planes on the water shall, in general, keep well clear of all vessels and avoid impeding their navigation. In circumstances however, where risk of collision exists, she shall comply with the Rules of this Part.
- It is recommended that “Step Taxiing” in float planes be minimized. “Idle Taxiing” is preferred.
- Float plane operators should keep a close eye out for kayaks and other small vessel traffic when landing and taking off.
- When landing and taking off in the vicinity of a cruise ship, keep a sharp lookout for vessels that may be screened from your sight by the cruise ship.
- Float plane operators are encouraged to extend their taxi to the west when operating under the East Wind Pattern. This will aid the pilots in avoiding most of the congestion.
- There is no set distance a float plane should keep from the waterfront facilities. However, pilots are reminded that many vessels depart from these facilities and by keeping more to the center of the channel, you will decrease your risk of being surprised by a vessel leaving one of these facilities.
- When using the float plane facilities at the Ketchikan International Airport, float plane operators should avoid operating in the vicinity of the airport ferry. The attached chartlet illustrates a suggested landing and take-off zone to the northwest of the float plane dock. By using this suggested area for your landing and take-offs, you are helping to ease the congestion in this, the narrowest portion of Tongass Narrows. You are also limiting the amount of vessel traffic that you will have to contend with when using this facility.
- Float plane operators, when landing or taking off in the vicinity of any vessel should avoid doing so in a manner that will impede or surprise the operator of that vessel.

*The chartlet used in this section is not all-inclusive. It serves only as an illustration of the suggested operational guidelines for this user group.*